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CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON--THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS "BROAD DISCRETION" TO FIRE AN EMPLOYEE "IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES," THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS RULED TODAY.

THE COURT UPHELD THE CIA'S DISMISSAL OF JOHN TORPATS, OF 5034 NORTH 36TH STREET, ARLINGTON, VA., WHO HAD SUED FOR REINSTATEMENT.

COURT RECORDS SHOW THAT CIA OFFICIALS COMPLAINED THAT TORPATS CONDUCTED AN INTERROGATION WHILE OVERSEAS "IN SUCH A MANNER TO CONSTITUTE DISOBEDIENCE OF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS." THEY ALSO ACCUSED HIM OF POOR JUDGMENT, LACKING SUPERVISORY ABILITY, INABILITY TO HANDLE AGENTS, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CHARGES.

TORPATS CLAIMED HE WAS THE VICTIM OF "A SMALL CLIQUE OF JEALOUS AND VINDICTIVE INDIVIDUALS SITTING IN HIGH PLACES." HE SAID ALLEN DULLES, FORMER CIA DIRECTOR, GAVE HIM A 10-MINUTE INTERVIEW, THEN TOLD HIM HE SHOULD RESIGN, RETIRE, OR BE FIRED.

THE COURT OF APPEALS RULED THAT TORPATS IS NOT BARRED FROM EMPLOYMENT IN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND THAT THE TERMINATION OF HIS JOB AT CIA WAS NOT FOR SECURITY REASONS BUT "FOR LACK OF SUITABILITY FOR THE POSITION AND GRADE AVAILABLE."

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